

Message Text

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R 191634Z DEC 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 299029

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO HONG KONG MOSCOW TOKYO

NEW DELHI ISLAMABAD DACCA CINCPAC FOR POLAD TAIPEI

FROM PEKING DTD 12 DEC 1975

QTE C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2402

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US CH

SUBJECT: PEKING DIPLOMATS' REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S TRIP

1. SUMMARY. FROM OUR CONTACTS WITH LOCAL DIPLOMATS THIS WEEK, WE BELIEVE THAT MOST ARE TELLING THEIR FOREIGN MINISTRIES THAT PRESIDENT'S PEKING VISIT WAS SUCCESSFUL FROM STANDPOINTS OF BOTH U.S. AND PRC. END SUMMARY

2. FRIENDLY DIPLOMATS HERE IN MANY CASES HAVE INDICATED TO US THAT BEFORE CALLING ON US TO DISCUSS VISIT THEY ALREADY HAD REPORTED TO CAPITALS SUBSTANTIALLY ALONG LINES OF THE GUIDANCE CONTAINED STATE 287017. YUGOSLAVS SEEM PLEASED BY VISIT. SOVIET CHARGE UNDERSTANDABLY DID NOT TIP HIS HAND BEYOND SAYING THAT MOSCOW'S MAIN CONCERN IS THAT DETENTE REMAINS ON COURSE. (BREZHNEV ALSO INDICATED HIS EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT POINT FOUR OF HONOLULU SPEECH PROVIDES CLEAR RATIONALE FOR NO CHANGE IN U.S. MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH TAIWAN.)

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3. THE SECRETARY'S DECEMBER 4 ON-THE-RECORD PRESS CONFERENCE, THE HIGH-LEVEL BACKGROUND BRIEFING FIVEN ON THE AIRCRAFT AND THE PRESIDENT'S HONOLULU SPEECH HAVE ALL BEEN READ WITH GREAT CARE BY SERIOUS MISSIONS HERE AND THEIR FAVORABLE CONCLUSIONS DRAWN FROM THOSE SOURCES HAVE BEEN BOLSTERED BY THE OBVIOUSLY POSITIVE TREATMENT THAT PRC MEDIA HAVE GIVEN BOTH TO THE PEKING VISIT AND TO SUBSEQUENT STAGES OF TRIP.

4. THE ABSENCE OF A JOINT COMMUNIQUE, WHATEVER MAY HAVE BEEN DIPLOMATS' CURIOSITY BEFORE THE END OF THE PEKING VISIT, APPARENTLY IS ACCEPTED AS LOGICAL UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES: DIPLOMATS WHO HAVE MENTIONED THIS ISSUE TO US SEEM TO FEEL MERELY THAT LACK OF COMMUNIQUE IS SIGNIFICANT ONLY IN CONFIRMING THAT THERE WERE NO DRAMATIC BREAK-THROUGHS, WHICH THEY DIDN'T EXPECT IN ANY CASE.

5. OUR CONVERSATIONS HWERE SINCE PRESIDENT'S DEPARTURE NOT SURPRISINGLY HAVE REVEALED AMONG ALLIES AS WELL AS OTHERS A RELENTLESS CURIOSITY ABOUT DETAILS OF TALKS AND WE ASSUME THAT (HAVING HEARD ONLY GENERALITIES FROM US AND THEIR APPETITES WHETTED PARTICULARLY BY SOME DETAIL GIVEN IN SECRETARY'S DECEMBER 4 PRESS CONFERENCE), MANY WILL BY NOW HAVE SOUGHT DETAILS FROM DEPARTMENT. FROM INDIAN CHARGE'S QUESTIONING OF US, WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT INDIANS WILL BE AMONG THOSE PRESSING FOR SOME INDICATION OF WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN SAID ABOUT SOUTH ASIA "ISSUES."

6. RUMORS ABOUT NEW SINO-US TRADE DEALS HAVE SURFACED REPEATEDLY IN TALKS WITH LOCAL DIPLOMATS AND IT IS APPARENT TO US THAT SUBSTANTIAL CREDIBILITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO STORIES THAT US AND PRC EITHER CONCLUDED OR LAID GROUNDWORK FOR CONCLUSION OF LARGE PACKAGE DEAL. VERSIONS OF THIS HAVE VARIED, BUT COMMON THREADS SEEM TO BE: (A) US WILL SELL LARGE NUMBERS OF TRUCKS AND/OR PETROLEUM EXTRACTION/EXPLORATION EQUIPMENT AND (B) CHINESE HAVE ASKED FOR 10-YEAR DEFERRED PAYMENT ARRANGEMENT.

7. IN TALKING OF PRESIDENT'S HONOLULU SPEECH, SEVERAL NATO MISSION CHIEFS HERE HAVE VOLUNTEERED OPINION, ONLY HALF IN JEST, THAT THEIR FOREIGN MINISTRIES WILL BE SEEKING REASSURANCE THAT PRESIDENT'S DEC 8 SPEECH DOES NOT MEAN DOWNGRADING OF IMPORTANCE OF ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP.

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8. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT TO OTHER POSTS.
THAYER
UNQTE KISSINGER

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